GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:666
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2005
AGREEMENT WITH US UNDER OPEN SKY POLICY
Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar;Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently concluded an agreement with United States under the `Open Sky` policy;

(b)if so, the salient features of the agreement;

(c) the extent to which India is likely to be benefited by such agreement;

(d) whether the Government is considering bilateral aviation agreement with USA particularly with regard to cross certification for civilian aircraft; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e):- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 666 for reply on 12.05.2005 regarding 'agreement with US under Open Sky Policy'

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A revised Air Services Agreement between India and USA has been signed on 14th April, 2005 replacing the earlier Agreement, which was signed in 1956. The earlier Agreement between India and USA already permitted either side to designate any number of airlines to operate air services between the two countries. While retaining this provision in the new Agreement, the revised Agreement also grants unlimited access to the designated airlines to any points of call in the territory of the other country as against four airports under the earlier Agreement. Besides the revised Agreement also removes all restrictions on exercise of 5th freedom traffic rights, code share rights and provides for greater operational flexibility. Removal of restrictions on points of call, code share rights and 5th freedom rights would provide greater commercial opportunities to Indian carriers and would enable them to wean away traffic on India-USA route from third country carriers.

(c): India-USA route is one of the major markets for the Indian carriers. The revised agreement has removed all constraints for operations on India-USA route. Indian carriers will be benefited from the various flexibilities provided in this agreement, particularly from the unlimited intermediate and beyond traffic rights which can now be exercised by them from/to any intermediate/beyond point. Indian carriers can also operate to any point in USA. Under this agreement, benefits are available to both sides on reciprocal basis.

(d)&(e): A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in civil aviation has been proposed by the USA Government, which provides for USA assistance in the following field:-

•Providing technical and managerial expertise in developing, improving and operation of civil aviation infrastructure, standards, procedures, policies, training and equipment.

•Providing training for Civil aviation personnel.
•Inspection and calibration of our civil aviation equipment and air navigation facility.
•Providing resources, logistical supports and equipment for air navigation facilities.
•Assistance in airport certification in India.
•Assistance in the field of Helicopter Operational Safety initiative.

The MOA is presently being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries of Government of India.